

- Do not risk dodging a deer at any speed.

Many crashes occur when drivers swerve to avoid a deer and hit another vehicle or leave the road and roll over.

- Brake when you see a deer in the road, rather than try to avoid it. If you can't avoid a collision, release the brake at the time of impact, making it possible for the deer to go underneath the vehicle, rather than through the windshield.

- Once a deer clears the roadway, proceed cautiously, because other deer may be following closely.

- If you hit a deer, report the crash to the local police authorities and to your insurance company.

Low headlight beams are not made for speeds of more than 40 mph, so use high beams as much as possible on highways and unlighted streets. However, low beams are mandatory if you are within 500 feet of another vehicle or in fog. If you think you see something beyond the range of the headlights, flash the high beams for a second to see what is there. If oncoming headlights blind you, slow down and do not look directly at the lights. Look beyond them, at the right edge of the road, but keep the approaching vehicle in your peripheral vision.

Going around a curve, your headlights shine straight ahead, slow down, because you cannot see as well.

Do not forget to increase your following distance to three seconds plus or more if road or weather conditions are poor. The car ahead may stop with little warning. Extra seconds of following distance give you a greater cushion of space.

If your windshield is dirty, it increases the glare from approaching vehicles. Keep your windshield and headlights clean.

Reduced speed, increased following distance, extra alertness, and all the other measures mentioned can help prevent crashes, but the unexpected still can and often does happen. The most important safety measure of all is always to wear your safety belt. **S**

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